

Application No. 09/787,549
Amendment dated August 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated February 6, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A copyright information management system including a copyright information management center, provided in a product distribution environment where products, in the form of digital content, are distributed through electronic transmission between a product provider comprising at least one of a copyright owner creating a product and a distributor distributing the product and a product user receiving the product from the product provider, the system exchanging copyright information relating to the product through the electronic transmission with both of the product provider and the product user,

the copyright information management center centrally managing all copyright information existing in the product distribution environment through the electronic transmission by preregistering copyright information relating to the individual products to be finally provided to the product user in the center;

wherein the copyright information comprises product provider information and product information and is available for retrieval by the product user at a time beginning prior to receiving the product in a final form.

Claim 2 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, further provided with a digital watermark embedding means by which at least one of the copyright owner and the distributor can embed copyright information relating to a product as digital watermark information directly in the data forming the product.

Claim 3 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 2, further provided with a digital watermark detection means for detecting the digital watermark information by the product provider and product user.

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Claim 4 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said digital watermark information is comprised of one or both of open information able to be detected by the product user and non-open information unable to be detected by the product user.

Claim 5 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 4, wherein the digital watermark information forming the non-open information is embedded and detected using a predetermined digital watermark key and wherein said digital watermark key is registered and managed by said copyright information management center.

Claim 6 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center is provided with a database for registering and managing copyright information.

Claim 7 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said database comprises at least a product provider database, a respective copyright information database, a work database, a digital watermark information database, and a digital watermark key database.

Claim 8 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said copyright information management center has a product provider registration means for registering a product provider in the center.

Claim 9 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center has a product information registration means for registering product information relating to a product created in the center.

Claim 10 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the copyright information management center issues a product provider ID after registering the product provider.

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Claim 11 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said copyright information management center issues a product ID after registering the product information.

Claim 12 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center has a copyright information inquiry means for receiving inquiries about copyright information from the product provider or product user and making its own inquiries.

Claim 13 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the copyright information management center has at least one of a copyright information updating means for updating copyright information registered in the center and a copyright information deletion means for deleting copyright information registered in the center.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the digital content is comprised of at least one of a moving image and a still image.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A copyright information management system comprising:

a first subsystem having a copyright information management program unit that manages copyright information in a copyright information management center as part of a product distribution environment electronic transmission that exchanges products, in the form of digital content, through electronic transmission; and

a second subsystem having a digital watermark information management program unit that operates in cooperation with the copyright information management program unit,

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wherein the copyright information management center centrally manages copyright information in the product distribution environment through electronic transmission by preregistering copyright information relating to digital content products to be finally provided to the product user, the preregistered copyright information comprising product provider information and product information and is available for retrieval by the product user at a time beginning prior to receiving the product in a final form.

Claim 17 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the above copyright information management program unit is provided with a database for registering and managing copyright information, a product provider registration program, a product information registration program, a copyright information inquiry program, and at least one of a copyright information updating program and a copyright information deletion program.

Claim 18 (Original): A copyright information management system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the digital watermark information management program unit is provided with a digital watermark embedding program, a digital watermark detection program, a digital watermark display program, a digital watermark key management program, and a digital watermark key database.